

School Immunisation Program Coverage

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, 2008 to 2024

Introduction

NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer vaccines recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in a school-based vaccination program.

This report provides an overview of the latest school immunisation coverage for students attending school-based vaccination programs within the boundaries of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, based on immunisation encounters for students reported by school immunisation nurses.

It summarises the percentage of students reported as receiving vaccines as a proportion of all students enrolled in the relevant year level. Information is provided for students attending schools located in South Eastern Sydney by vaccine, dose and year, compared to the NSW state average.

It is important to note that the coverage rates may underestimate the true vaccination coverage as they represent only those vaccinations received through the school program and do not include doses received from general practitioners or other immunisation providers.

Up to date information on the vaccines on offer at NSW high schools is available at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schoolvaccination.aspx>.

In 2023, online consent was introduced into the school immunisation program, as well as changes to the HPV dosing schedule, moving from 2-doses to a single dose of HPV, resulted in significant impacts to the program across NSW. Additionally, disruptions due to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 resulted in some schools not being able to offer dose 2 for HPV vaccine in 2020 and 2021.

Data noted in this report is only for vaccines given at school and does not account for vaccines given at the GP and/or pharmacy.

2024 summary for students attending schools located in South Eastern Sydney LHD:

- 75.1 % of year 7 students received the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) vaccine.
- 76.9 % of year 10 students received the meningococcal ACWY vaccine.
- 75.1 % of female year 7 students received the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine
- 75.3 % of male year 7 students received the HPV vaccine

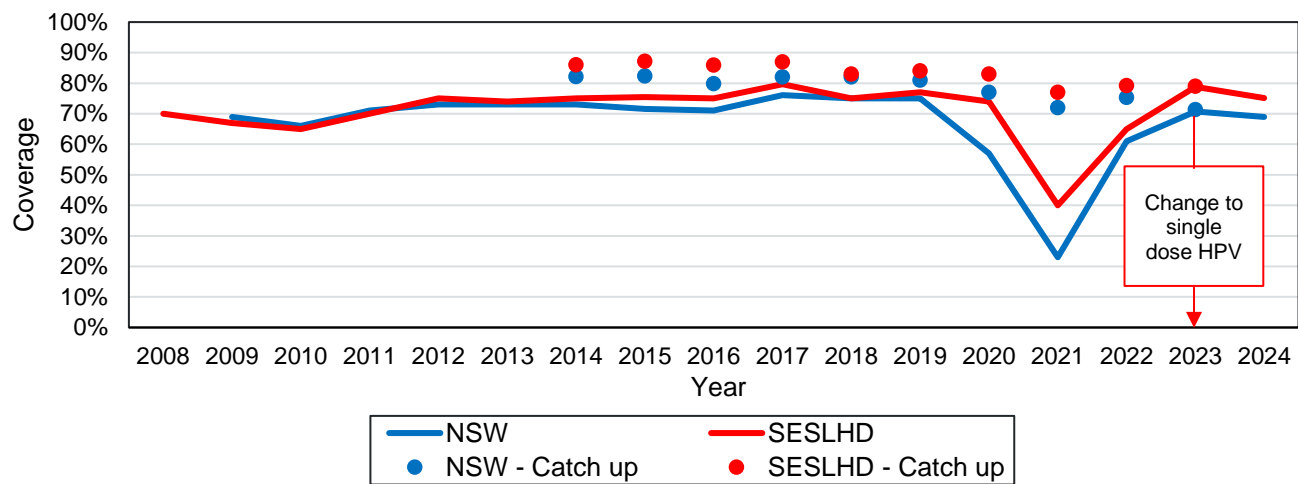
2024 students will be offered the opportunity to receive any missed doses of dTpa, HPV or meningococcal ACWY vaccine at school clinics in 2025, so overall coverage is expected to increase.

HPV vaccine; protection against human papillomavirus

In 2023, the schedule changed from 2 doses to a single dose as international studies have shown a single dose gives comparable protection against HPV infection in healthy people. Catchup doses for HPV have been extended from 19 years to 25 years.

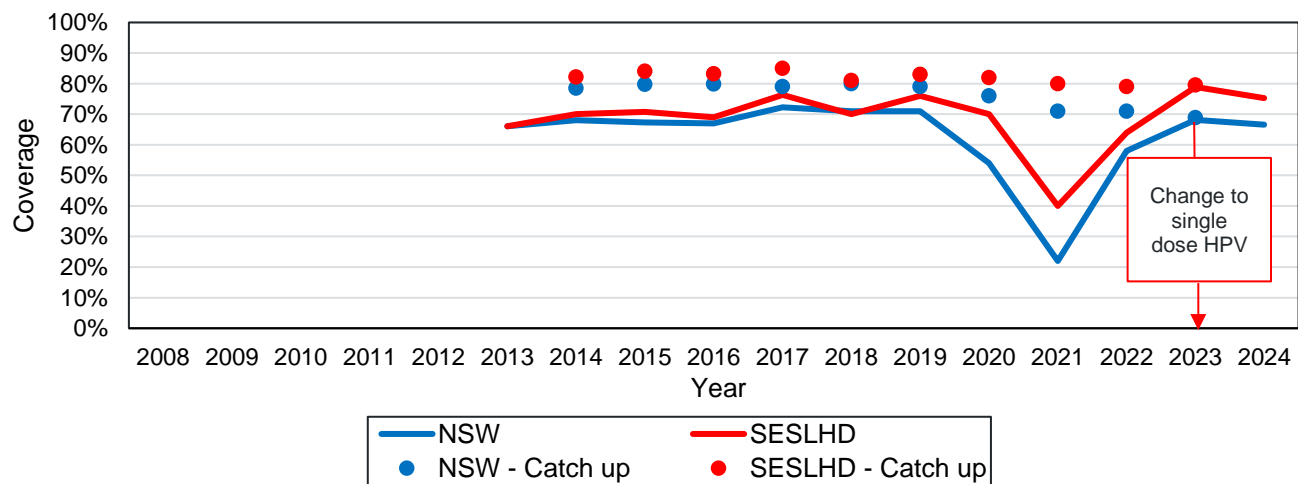
Female students

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination has been routinely offered to year 7 girls since 2008. In 2024, 75.1% of the 4,795 female year 7 students in District schools received the HPV vaccine. This is a decrease of 3.7% from 2023. Coverage in this cohort is above the state average (NSW 69.0%). Students who missed receiving their first dose of HPV in 2023 were offered catch-up vaccination in 2024. This increased coverage by 0.2% to 79.0%, for the 4,827 female students enrolled in year 7 in 2023.



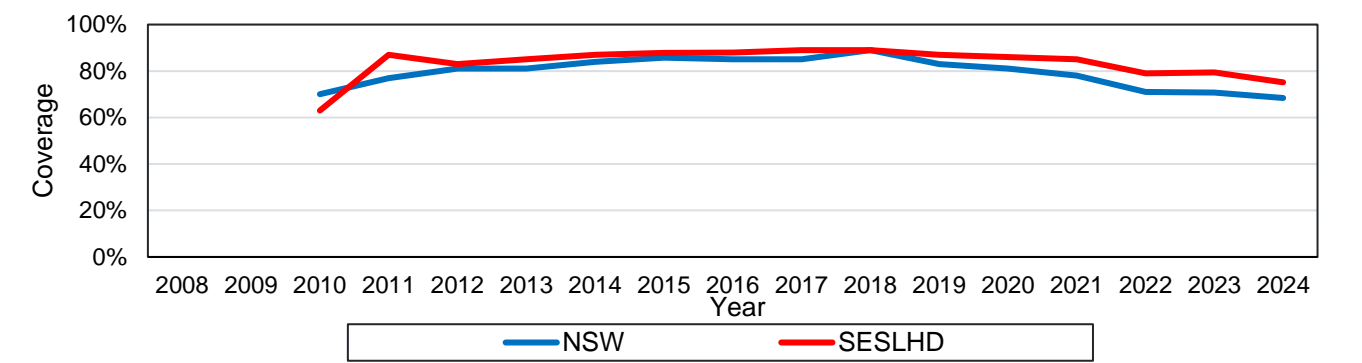
Male students

HPV vaccination has been routinely offered to year 7 boys since 2013. In 2024, 75.3% of the 5,081 male year 7 students in District schools received the HPV vaccine. This is a decrease of 3.6% from 2023. Coverage in this cohort is above state average (NSW 66.6%). Students who missed receiving their dose of HPV in 2023 were offered catch-up vaccination in 2024. This increased coverage by 0.6% to 79.5% for the 5,000 male students enrolled in year 7 in 2023.



dTpa vaccine; protection against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis

Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (whooping cough) (dTpa) booster vaccination has been routinely offered to students in year 7 since 2003. In 2024, 75.1% of the 9,878 year 7 students in District schools received the dTpa vaccine, this is a decrease in 4.3% compared to 2023. Coverage in this cohort is above the state average (NSW 68.4%). Students who missed receiving their dose of dTpa in 2023 were offered catch-up vaccination in 2024. This increased coverage by 0.4% to 79.8% for the 9,832 students enrolled in year 7 in 2023.



Meningococcal vaccine: protection against meningococcus: A, C, W and Y

The NSW Meningococcal W Response Program started in 2017 in response to a rapid increase in cases of meningococcal W disease in the community, especially among young adults. It offers a single dose of the meningococcal ACWY vaccine to older adolescents as part of the NSW School Vaccination Program. In 2017 the vaccine was offered to year 11 and 12. In 2018, this changed to year 10 and 11. From 2019, the vaccine was offered to year 10 students through the school program, however, adolescents up to 19 years of age are eligible to be vaccinated by their general practitioner. In 2024, 76.9% of the 10,033 year 10 students in District schools received the meningococcal ACWY vaccine, an increase in 1.2% compared to 2023. Students who missed receiving their dose of meningococcal ACWY in 2023 were offered catch-up vaccination in 2024. This increased coverage by 1.2% for the 10,052 students enrolled in year 10 in 2023.

